

**REMARKS**  
**AGNETE JOHNSTGAARD-LEWIS**  
**SHELL COUNTRY CHAIR**  
**AND MANAGING DIRECTOR BRUNEI SHELL PETROLEUM COMPANY SDN BHD**  
**ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE: GIFT TO NATION MOU SIGNING CEREMONY**  
Thursday, 3 December 2020  
Lecture Theatre 2, Universiti Teknologi Brunei

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- Yang Berhormat Dato Seri Setia Awang Haji Hamzah bin Haji Sulaiman, Minister of Education
- Yang Mulia Professor Dr Dayang Hajah Zohrah binti Haji Sulaiman, Universiti Teknologi Brunei Vice Chancellor
- Yang Mulia Dr Chin Wei Keh, Acting Permanent Secretary (Higher Education)
- Mr Ivo Verstralen, Managing Director of Shell Deepwater Borneo
- UTB Principal Officers

Distinguished guests

Ladies and Gentlemen

Good morning,

1. First of all, thank you for having us and it is an honour and great pleasure to be here with you today, at this great academic institution. Today is an exciting day, as Universiti Teknologi Brunei, Shell and Brunei Shell Petroleum Co. Sdn Bhd announce the next step in their cooperation in the field of Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning to the benefit of the Nation as a whole.

2. The future that lies ahead of us is exciting and full of opportunities as we are entering the Industrial Revolution 4.0. It is a world that is moving towards truly intelligent machines, systems and artificial intelligence, which is commonly referred to as “AI”. It touches every aspect of the world around us: healthcare, environment, business, education, engineering, to name only a few.
3. The global market for AI is growing at a dazzling speed and projected to reach more than \$US 300 billion by 2027. Especially this year the use of AI in myriad fields has skyrocketed during the pandemic, using the global crisis to search for new tools to manage and survive the pandemic in all possible aspects of life<sup>1</sup>.
4. The importance of adopting AI has been acknowledged at the highest level in Brunei. In line with the aspirations of His Majesty for Brunei Darussalam to become a smart nation, the Digital Economy Masterplan 2025 was launched this year by the Digital Economy Council. The objectives of the masterplan are: a vibrant and sustainable economy; a digital and future-ready society; and a digitally conducive ecosystem. And this is exactly what Shell and BSP aspire to do as well.
5. Your university’s vision is to be A Global University, Impacting Society. This very much resonates with one of Shell’s Strategic Ambitions which is a Strong Societal License to Operate. Shell cooperates with many academic institutions across the globe. It uses its Shell [dot] AI platform that was formed to drive a common approach to data science platform technology, to develop consistent ways of working, and build a community of practice which can demonstrate the ‘art of the possible’, and shares best practices across its entire business. To give you a quick impression of its scale: the community is around 5000 people, with 160 AI projects in flight and the Shell[dot]AI self-service platform is used by over 800 data scientists. 40 hackathons were held the last few years and there are over 1.1 trillion rows of curated sensor data in the data lake for the purposes of machine learning. It is managing 850,000 sensors producing data at high frequencies and it is managing

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<sup>1</sup> Global Artificial Intelligence (AI) Industry (2020). Global Industry Analysts ID: 5478480

- thousands of live machine learning models, monitoring over 1500 pieces of equipment.<sup>2</sup>
6. Shell's societal license to operate supports its purpose to power progress together by providing more and cleaner energy solutions. Examples of Shell's digital capabilities to support this are a Global Carbon Abatement tool that takes all data from Shell assets around the globe and looks at places where GHG could be avoided by implementing efficiency measures or carbon sequestration.
  7. In BSP, we are also using AI to address business problems. We have learned that as we increase exposure to digital capabilities, including AI, we're able to develop more complex skills in this space. For instance, our data scientists have produced a solution to automate the process in identifying anomalies in our equipment using machine learning and to find the best well trajectory in a given area using deep learning. Remember, these are examples that are taking place today – not something that could potentially happen in the future. AI is helping us to do our work more efficiently and effectively, and helping us to address complex problems.
  8. That brings us back to why we are here today. Shell, together with BSP, would like to contribute, *AI technology, applications and development*, as a Gift to the Nation.
  9. BSP is already spearheading digitalisation, cutting-edge technologies and innovation in the country and Shell can complement this by providing a package of hardware and AI expertise to the nation. AI in UTB has the potential to support research programmes that can benefit the entire Nation, not just in the Energy Industry but also on topics such as: road safety ~~research~~, agri-food science and technology, green technology and water resources.
  10. Under the MoU, we will initially provide to UTB AI machinery such as AI developer powerful laptops, AI Edge computing, Augmented and Virtual Reality devices, Do It Yourself Voice and Vision kits, as well as Conversational Interfaces.

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<sup>2</sup> Shell.ai - <https://www.shell.com/energy-and-innovation/digitalisation/digital-technologies/shell-ai.html>

11. In addition, Shell will provide its AI and Machine Learning experts to provide guest lectures and Shell will organise a Hackathon with UTB based on successful experiences with other universities in the world, using its platforms to solve some of Brunei's toughest challenges.
12. During the implementation phase of the MoU, UTB, BSP and Shell can discuss where they can further cooperate in AI to benefit the country and develop our local youths to be future-ready in this field.
13. Yang Berhormat Dato, Professor, distinguished guests, thank you very much for the opportunity to be here today. We look forward to increase our cooperation in AI and digitalisation and to an exciting partnership where we can celebrate the future ahead of us.

Thank you.